

1 HASHKNIFE HARTLEY AND SLEEPY STEVENS in
2 BLOODY BEGINNINGS

3 written by Joy Jackson, based on W. C. Tuttle's characters
4

5 HASHKNIFE HARTLEY—BACKSTORY

6 a) Hashknife: slashes on a knife

7 b) Hashknife: a common kitchen tool used to chop meat and vegetables

8 c) name of a ranch in Texas, which moved cattle to market in Arizona and Kansas

9 d) name of the Pony Express, April 3, 1860, to move mail from St Jo, Missouri to

10 Sacramento (1,960 miles) 190 stations, 500 horses, 80 riders. Riders rode 75

11 miles a day, worked for \$25/week. Relays of one mile.

12 e) brand of the Hashknife ranch

13 CAST:

14 HASHKNIFE HARTLEY—KEN LIESSE

15 SLEEPY STEVENS—DAVE LIESSE

16 DEPUTY DUSTY—Kim Turner

17 HARRY-- Harry Thiel

18 SALLY—Melinda Mains

19 LITTLE WOLF—Gregg Porter

20 CHIEF—Moki O'Reilly

21 FRED—Dan Schindler

22 CHARLES—Pat McNally

23 DOLLY-- Marge Lutton

24 ANNCR—Joy or Liz

25

1 [SCENE 1 JAIL]

2 SFX JAIL CELL DOOR OPENING

3 Deputy In you go, Hartley.

4 HART But, Deputy! Ah didn't do it!

5 DEPUTY They all say that. Those cuts on your knife proves otherwise. A regular
6 hashknife.

7 SFX CELL DOOR SHUT; FOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY.

8 HART But Deputy! Ah didn't do it!

9 SFX RATTLING THE DOOR

10 SLEEPY Might as well sit down, son. You ain't goin' nowhere.

11 HART Ah guess not.

12 SFX FOOTSTEPS/SITS DOWN

13 SLEEPY Hey, Hashknife...

14 HART That ain't my name, cowboy.

15 SLEEPY Folks been sayin' "that Hashknife fella this" and "that Haskknife fella that"

16 HART (DISGRUNTLED) Darned name follers me around.

17 SLEEPY Why, son?

18 HART First Ah worked for this ranch in Texas.

19 SLEEPY Hashknife Ranch?

20 HART Yeah. Then Ah drifted west to Arizona. Doggone if there wasn't a pony
21 express out there with the same name.

22 SLEEPY Hired ya, huh?

23 HART Darned right.

24 SLEEPY Bet you're purty slick on a horse, ain't ya?

25 HART Purty slick, partner.

26 SLEEPY Well, what chu in here for?

27 HART Beats me. Wrong place at the wrong time, Ah guess. Sorry of mah life.

28 SLEEPY You ain't in here for missin' church.

29 HART No. I stopped in this misbegotten town, to get the dust out of mah throat.

30 SLEEPY This is the wurst place to do that, Hashknife. They don't serve nothin' but
31 water in jail.

1 HART Don't call me that!

2 SLEEPY Well, what's your name, son?

3 HART Leonard. At home, folks call me Len.

4 SLEEPY That ain't hardly a good name out here! You'd get strung up!

5 HART Great.

6 SLEEPY So you stopped to get a drink at the saloon.

7 HART Yeah. And then this hombre shoves up against me, and then he bleeds all over

8 me! Ah can see the knife stickin' out of 'im.

9 SLEEPY Oh, that's why you look so unsavory. Your knife, huh?

10 HART Not mine, pardner. But the sheriff is convinced otherwise.

11 SLEEPY Whatchu gonna do about it?

12 HART Cain't do nothin' pent up in here. Ah gotta get out first.

13 SLEEPY Then what?

14 HART Find out who killed that fella. His blood is on mah hands, and Ah won't feel

15 right 'til Ah get it off.

16 SLEEPY How you gonna do that, son?

17 HART Ah'm thinkin' on it.

18 SLEEPY Huh.

19 SFX RATTLING THE TIN CUP ON THE BARS

20 SLEEPY Hey Dusty! How about some water here. If you ain't gonna feed me, you

21 might as well make mah stomach think it's got something in it.

22 DUSTY (OFF) First it's one thing, then another with you. I'll be glad when the sheriff

23 lets you out. Sleepy, why don't you just curl up in the corner, and quit buggin'

24 me.

25 SLEEPY Come on, Dusty. Just a little drop of water. I've got a horrible thirst.

26 DUSTY You shoulda thought about that when you started that fight. You and your

27 hair-trigger temper...

28 SLEEPY I'm gonna keep talkin' until you bring me some...

29 DUSTY All right, all right.

30 SFX LADLE OF WATER Poured INTO A CUP. FOOTSTEPS.

31 DUSTY Okay, here it is...

1 HART Grab his hands, Sleepy!

2 DUSTY Hey! Let go of me, you drunken sod!

3 SFX STRUGGLE

4 HART Ah'll just reach inside your vest pocket, and retrieve those keys.

5 DUSTY You can't do that!

6 HART Ah ain't sittin' in here while that killer is slippin' around free. And I'll take
7 that gun. Now, I'll unlock this door...

8 SFX LOCK TURNING, DOOR OPEN.

9 HART Let go of 'im, Sleepy.

10 SLEEPY Huh? Oh, yeah. Sorry, Dusty. I didn't think he was gonna do that...

11 HART In you go, Dusty. Thanks for all yore hospitality.

12 SFX DOOR SHUTTING

13 SLEEPY Hashknife! Don't leave me here!

14 HART You want to string along with me? Are you crazy?

15 SLEEPY I don't think so. But you're more interestin' than bunkin' in here with Dusty.

16 HART (LAUGHING) All right... But we're gonna have words about what you call
17 me.

18 SLEEPY Dad-blame it son, in the west you don't get much of a choice.

19 HART Okay. Just so you can show me around town. Come on.

20 SFX METAL DOOR OPENING FOOTSTEPS (leaving cell), METAL DOOR
21 SHUTTING

22 HARRY (off) Hey! Let me out too! I can help!

23 SLEEPY Harry, just sleep it off.

24 SFX FOOTSTEPS LEAVING,

25 DUSTY (OFF, FADING) Don't leave me here like this! What's the Sheriff gonna say?

26 SLEEPY (CALLING) Dusty, why don't chu just curl up in the corner and quit
27 buggin' me.

28 HART (LAUGHING)

29 SFX FOOTSTEPS CONTINUING UNDER

30 SLEEPY Hashknife, who was it you're supposed to have killed?

31 HART The name is Hartley, Bodiddly.

1 SLEEPY What did you just call me? Bo Diddly, huh?

2 HART Cowboy, Ah don't know anyone here. The Sheriff said his name was Thom
3 Jeffers.

4 SLEEPY Lovely Dove! He's the new Indian Agent. And you went and killed him.

5 HART Ah DID NOT! Has he been in town long?

6 SLEEPY Only a couple of months. I'll bet Sally's gonna be upset.

7 HART Is that his wife or sweetheart?

8 SLEEPY Why—are you plannin' on romancin' her?

9 HART No, dim-wit. Ah just thought she might have an idear if someone in town had
10 it in fer Thom.

11 SLEEPY Oh, that's different. Their house is the last one down this street. We could stop
12 in and give our condolences to her.

13 HART You ain't told me yet if it's his wife.

14 SLEEPY I haven't because it's not. She's his sister, and a purty little thing, too. Just a
15 little too high falutin' for the like of me. This house, son.

16 SFX FOOTSTEPS STOP, KNOCK ON DOOR.

17 SALLY (MUFFLED) Who's there?

18 SLEEPY Hi Miss Sally. It's Sleepy Stevens. Can I talk with you?

19 SFX DOOR OPEN

20 SALLY (UPSET) Oh Sleepy! It's real nice of you to come by. Thom is...

21 SLEEPY (BREAKING IN) Yes, Ma'am, I know. I just heard about Thom. He was a
22 mighty fine man. A man we could all look up to...

23 SALLY And he got murdered for it. I knew this was a mistake coming out here, but
24 Thom wanted to do something for the Indians. He wanted to right some of the
25 wrongs done to them. He felt he could do some good.

26 SLEEPY What are you gonna do now, Miss Sally?

27 SALLY I'd go back home on the quickest train, except...there's...

28 HART Except what, ma'am.

29 SALLY Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't see you standing there.

30 SLEEPY Where's my manners? Miss Sally, this is Hashknife.

31 HART (STRANGLERED RESPONSE) Except what, Ma'am?

1 SALLY I'm kinda sparking with someone.

2 HART Someone Thom didn't like?

3 SALLY On the contrary, Thom thought the world of Frederick Tanner.

4 HART Frederick...Freddy Tanner? Is he mixed up in this?

5 SALLY What do you mean, mixed up in this? Frederick is a wonderful man. He's

6 been selling cattle to Thom for the Indians at a decent reasonable price.

7 HART Ah just bet he has.

8 SALLY He's so kind and thoughtful. He's been so considerate.

9 HART I'm sure he's everything you need him to be ma'am. Come on, Sleepy. Ah

10 gotta check something at the office. My condolences, ma'am.

11 SALLY Thank you. I...I can't believe he's gone! (sob)

12 SFX DOOR SHUT

13 SLEEPY Good night, Miss Sally...

14 SFX FOOTSTEPS

15 SLEEPY Where to now, Hashknife?

16 HART Not Hashknife!

17 SLEEPY Take it easy, cowboy. Nothing to get riled about. Unless you just like walkin'

18 around in the dark in a strange town.

19 HART Ah want to check the records at the Indian Agency. Where is it?

20 SLEEPY Oh, right down this alley. Why do you want to look at those? Ain't nothing

21 but a bunch of tally marks.

22 HART Oh? You've seen 'em?

23 SLEEPY Yeah, I seen 'em. I drove part of a herd over there last week. Funny thing

24 about that though, come to think of it.

25 HART What's that?

26 SLEEPY There was a cow that I coulda sworn I've had in another bunch that I took to

27 the same place. But that don't make no sense.

28 HART After a while, all cows look alike.

29 SLEEPY Particularly if they is just tallymarks on a ledger. But there was this one cow

30 with a busted-off horn...

31 MUSIC

1 [SCENE 2 INDIAN AGENCY}]

2 SFX RUMMING IN DRAWERS, FLIPPING OPEN LEDGERS, PAGES

3 HART Uh-huh....Now that's real interestin'.

4 SLEEPY What is, son?

5 HART Oh, these tallymarks

6 SLEEPY I told you! What's it take to get you to believe me.

7 HART But cowboy---they don't tally.

8 SLEEPY Huh? What do you mean? Of course they tally. I drove those danged cows
9 myself.

10 HART The amount paid out for a certain number of cows doesn't tally with the
11 number of cows given to the Indians.

12 SLEEPY How could that be? Thom was as honest as the day is long.

13 HART He's only been here for what—a couple of months?

14 SLEEPY Yeah.

15 HART This goes back a lot farther than that.

16 SLEEPY It does?

17 HART And if I know Freddy Tanner, he's got his hand in it all the way up to his
18 elbows.

19 SLEEPY You sound like you heard of him before.

20 HART You could say that. Come on, we'll take these books along.

21 SLEEPY That's stealing! It's agin the law!

22 HART Hey, they can only hang me once, and this ain't nothin' compared tuh that.

23

24 Notes:

25 Sally—romanced by Tanner

26 Tanner—trying to cover his cattle embezzlement by killing Thom and marrying Sally

27 Hart goes out to the Indian reservation, and runs into John Little Wolf, someone he fought alongside

28 in the Civil War. John reports that the Indians aren't getting much in the way of cattle, just

29 one or two. Bob Marsh thought something was amiss, and sent Hartley into the area.

30

31 [SCENE 3 INDIAN RESERVATION]

1 SLEEPY Hashknife, where we goin' now?
2 HART Stop callin' me that!
3 SLEEPY Cain't help it. You just look like a hashknife.
4 HART Sharp and pointy, huh? You know where abouts the Indians' reservation is?
5 SLEEPY Why shore. You cain't walk there though. You gotta have a horse.
6 HART Sleepy, how do yuh think Ah got into town?
7 SLEEPY Well, yeah. But there's other ways, ya know.
8 HART Ah'd be a poor cowboy without my horse and saddle, wouldn't Ah? My horse
9 is probably still over at the saloon.
10 SLEEPY Drinkin' it up, no doubt.
11 HART He got more of a drink than Ah got that's for shore.
12 SLEEPY My Appalatchy is over in the stable at the edge of town. Leastways that's
13 where Dusty told me he'd put her.
14 MUSIC INTO HORSE HOOFS, BIRDS IN BACKGROUND
15 SLEEPY We're real close now. This is where we usually drop off the cattle for them.
16 HART Do tell. Ain't no reservation around here. It's got to be miles away yet.
17 SLEEPY How'd you know that? You ain't never been here....have you?
18 HART Listen, Bodiddly, there's no sign of 'em here—no wood smoke, no dogs
19 barking, no children's yells. Quit pulling mah leg.
20 SLEEPY Now you're callin' me names! This is where we drove the cattle!
21 HART Huh. Well, I suggest we ride on a little further. Let's just hope for your sake
22 that it's near by.
23 MUSIC
24 HART Hold up a minute.
25 SFX GETTING DOWN FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL AS HE LOOKS AT THE
26 GROUND
27 SLEEPY What are ya lookin' fer, down there? And how in the blazes can you see
28 anythin'?
29 HART Lot of cattle tracks goin' this way. But there's a few unshod horses goin' that
30 direction. Ah think we'll folla those unshod ponies.
31 SLEEPY Why would you do that?

1 HART Ah want to see this Indian encampment. And the cattle didn't go that way.

2 SLEEPY Thunderation. How could you tell?

3 HART Sleepy, there's a full moon tonight. The cattle leave a trail that a blind man
4 could see.

5 MUSIC TO DOGS BARKING, CHILDREN PLAYING.

6 LITTLE WOLF Stop, white man. What business here?

7 SFX HORSES PAUSE, SNORT

8 SLEEPY Lovely Dove. Ain't sure it's a welcomin' committee or what.

9 HART Is that you Little Wolf? You're sure talkin' funny, John.

10 SLEEPY (SHOCK) Little Wolf? You cain't mean to say you know this injun!

11 LITTLE WOLF I know you, white man?

12 HART It's been some time. Lemme take off mah hat.

13 LITTLE WOLF (RECOGNITION DAWNS) Lenny? Is that really you?

14 HART Cain't tell without mah beard, huh?

15 LITTLE WOLF When I sent you that letter, I never really expected you might come.

16 HART (SMILE) Where's yore faith, Little Wolf? The sky god provides, don't
17 he?

18 SLEEPY (IRRITATED) Some one tell me what's goin' on!

19 LITTLE WOLF Who is this white man?

20 HART Seems to be called Sleepy Stevens. (con't)

21 SLEEPY What chu mean, claims?

22 HART Actually claims to have delivered cattle to you.

23 LITTLE WOLF I never saw him before.

24 HART Ah didn't think so.

25 SLEEPY Hold it a darn minute. Are you guys in cohorts? What chu doing bein' friends
26 with injuns?

27 HART This "injin" saved mah life more'n once.

28 LITTLE WOLF And you always returned the favor. I thought you went home after the
29 war, Lenny. That's where I sent the letter.

30 HART It eventually got to me. And Ah came as soon Ah could.

1 LITTLE WOLF Come on in and sit a spell. I'll go get the Chief and we can talk about
2 the troubles.

3 MUSIC TO FIRE CRACKLING

4 HART Thank you for seein' us, Chief.

5 CHIEF Little Wolf speaks highly of you, Len Hartley. He wanted a white warrior to
6 check into the matter.

7 LITTLE WOLF Len, we are starving.

8 CHIEF The Indian Agent tells us cattle are coming, but we only see one or two at a
9 time.

10 LITTLE WOLF I know we're supposed to be getting more than that. The contract
11 papers say...

12 HART You wuz always a good 'un for readin', Little Wolf.

13 LITTLE WOLF Thom Jeffers promised to get to the bottom of it, but we've heard
14 nothing from him.

15 HART And you won't now. He came into town yesterday and he was killed right in
16 front of me.

17 SLEEPY Yeah, and Hashknife here got fingered for it.

18 LITTLE WOLF You, Lenny? I can't believe that.

19 HART Someone slipped a knife into him and shoved him on me. Never even
20 met the man, and here Ah'm blamed for killin' 'im.

21 CHIEF You think it's mixed up with this cattle business?

22 HART Shore looks like it to me.

23 CHIEF Not that anyone will pay attention. Just one man's word against the Indians.

24 HART Little Wolf, you wrote that you been keepin' track of how many cattle.

25 LITTLE WOLF That's why I know there's something going on.

26 HART Bring out those ledgers, Sleepy.

27 SLEEPY (HORROR) You're gonna give 'em to the Injins? Hashknife, you'll be
28 strung up for sure!

29 LITTLE WOLF Lenny, what's all this Hashknife business?

30 HART Ah don't wanna talk about it. But if you start callin' me that, Little Wolf, there
31 might be murder in my eye yet.

1 LITTLE WOLF (GRIN, DELIGHTED) Don't like it much, huh?
2 HART Sleepy, see what you started!
3 SLEEPY (INNOCENT) Started what, son?
4 HART Little Wolf, compare your figures with the tallys in these ledgers. That might
5 give you some ammo.
6 CHIEF Good.
7 HART With Thom Jeffers dead, who is the Indian Agent?
8 CHIEF Same as last year.
9 SLEEPY (PEEVED) Hashknife, I coulda told you that! The same hombre that hires me to
10 drive cattle—Frederick Tanner.
11 HART Freddy Tanner! Ah had a feelin' he'd turn up agin. No wonder those ledgers
12 stink to me. Little Wolf—did you know?
13 CHIEF Papers always signed by F. Tannenbaum.
14 LITTLE WOLF You're telling me that Tannenbaum is actually Freddy Tanner? I had
15 no reason to suspect that Tanner might have his fingers in this business.
16 HART You never saw him out here?
17 LITTLE WOLF Since when do the Indians ever see the Indian Agent?
18 SLEEPY (IRRITATED) Why is it everyone knows about Freddy Tanner but me? I'm
19 the only one who worked for 'im. In fact, I'm the only one that met the dude.
20 LITTLE WOLF (GRIM) If we are talking about the same man, he deserted from our
21 outfit in the War.
22 HART It was after he disappeared that we found that poor family tortured
23 and...murdered.
24 SLEEPY Maybe he didn't do it.
25 HART There wuz a lot of evidence about his attachment to that family.
26 LITTLE WOLF (EXTREME DISTASTE) Robbing them wasn't enough for him.
27 HART (DARKLY) And murder wasn't either. We kept lookin' for him after that.
28 LITTLE WOLF And if we ever find him, he will pay for what he did to that family.
29 HART As well others that might have fallen into his path.
30 SLEEPY But that was in the war! You can't get a jury to convict someone for
31 something they did during the war.

1 LITTLE WOLF (GRIM) That doesn't mean judgment can't be delivered.
2 HART (GRIM) Ah'd be delighted.
3 SLEEPY Do ya suppose he recognized you in the saloon, and deliberately pinned the
4 murder on you?
5 LITTLE WOLF Lenny, I wouldn't put it past him. You're pretty easy to spot.
6 HART (NEEDLING) Then how come you didn't know me at the edge of the village!
7 LITTLE WOLF I recognized you!
8 HART You were showin' off!
9 LITTLE WOLF Iwas on duty!
10 HART (LAUGHING) You Cherokees!
11 LITTLE WOLF What's more, you had this white man with you. You never used to
12 tolerate a sidekick.
13 HART (EDGEY) Ah ain't got one now!
14 SLEEPY We'll see about that, Hashknife.
15 HART (DISGUSTED) Aw, hell.
16
17 MUSIC
18 ANNCR We'll return to Hashknife or Lenny and Sleepy after this brief message from
19 American Radio Theater.
20
21 ANNCR We return to ART's original production of Hashkife Hartley and Sleepy
22 Stevens in Bloody Beginnings.
23
24 [SCENE 4 TANNER'S SPREAD]
25 MUSIC INTO HORSE HOOFS under
26 SLEEPY Hashknife, I don't think this is the best ideer you ever had.
27 HART (TEETH CLENCHED) You don't have to tag along.
28 SLEEPY You're not safe to be let out on your own. You get into all sorts of trouble.
29 HART Ah'm just fine on mah own.
30 SLEEPY Yeah—you hang around with ...with...Indians/
31 HART (SMILE) Ah thought you called them Injins.

1 SLEEPY (ABASHED) That was afore I met some of 'em. That Lone Wolf talks
2 better'n me. Reads and writes like a dad-blamed lawyer.
3 HART Cherokees aren't your garden variety Injin.
4 SLEEPY But why are we headin' out to Tanner's ranch? His regular hands are real
5 frisky with their guns.
6 HART Ah thought you worked for him.
7 SLEEPY Nope, only when he moves a shipment of cattle. His ranch hands wouldn't
8 want to get their hands dirty.
9 HART Probably wear gloves to protect their tender white flesh.
10 SLEEPY (DUMB-FOUNDED) How did you know? Are you been here afore?
11 HART (NON-VERBAL SHRUG)
12 SLEEPY Here's the edge of the ranch....(CHANGE OF TONE) Now, that's down-right
13 funny.
14 SFX HORSES STOP AND BLOW
15 HART You're always saying somethin' is funny. What is it this time?
16 SLEEPY You remember I mentioned that cow with the busted horn?
17 HART Yeah, and Ah said all cattle start to look alike. What of it?
18 SLEEPY Dog-gone if I don't see that same cow! How can that be?
19 HART Well, either you're fixated on a cow...
20 SLEEPY HEY!
21 HART Or someone has been sendin' the same cattle over and over again. Come on
22 Pecos. (TONGUE CLICK)
23 SLEEPY Dad-blame it, Hashknife! Where are you goin' now?
24 HART Shut up, cowboy! (Whisper) Ah want to see what I can find at that ranch-
25 house.
26 SLEEPY But all that gun-fighter crew...
27 HART Will be asleep in the bunkhouse. You cain wait for me out here if you're
28 afraid.
29 SLEEPY (OUTRAGED) Afraid? Not on your life, you screwball. Lovely dove!
30 HART Fine. If you're comin' with me, keep your trap shut. We'll tie the horses up at
31 the edge of the corral, and sneak onto the porch.

1 MUSIC

2 CHARLES We've got a really good situation here, Freddie. But how many times can you
3 fiddle the books on the Indians? Someone is bound to wise up.

4 DOLLY You mean like that dumb as a doorknob cowpoke?

5 FRED (CHUCKLING) Yeah, he has driven that same herd to the Indians five times
6 now. And he never noticed a thing.

7 DOLLY Good thing you've managed to keep him off the ranch.

8 CHARLES Not that you had much to do about that. He's so sweet on that Sally it's
9 pathetic.

10 SLEEPY (WHISPERING) I do not!

11 HART (WHISPERING) Will you be quiet?

12 FRED (EDGY) That's my girl you're maligning!

13 DOLLY Are you really serious? You're not just stringing her along to handle Thom?

14 FRED I'm going to marry her, that's how serious it is!

15 CHARLES That's going to really complicate things for us.

16 FRED No, not at all. I can keep her out of it. Keep her in new dresses and she'll
17 never notice.

18 DOLLY You must think most women are beneath you.

19 CHARLES (CHUCKLING) In more ways than one!

20 DOLLY (IGNORING HIM) She's not as dumb as you think, Freddie.

21 FRED Dolly most women aren't as smart as you are.

22 DOLLY When we've had tea together, she covers some surprising topics.

23 FRED You're just imagining it. She's just another weepy female.

24 CHARLES Freddie, you certainly took care of that Indian agent,
25 FRED Smoothest operation I ever did. The doors banged open, and this dumb
26 cowpoke stepped up to the bar behind Thom. It was so easy. I put the knife in
27 and shoved Thom onto the puncher. (LAUGHS) Smooth as silk.

28 CHARLES Too bad he got jailed for it. We could've gotten him lynched and it'd be all
29 over and done.

30 FRED Though there was something about that puncher...

31 DOLLY Must be just nerves.

1 FRED Yeah, probably.
2 CHARLES He must just remind you of someone.
3 FRED I don't know. It's just a feeling.
4 SFX CREAKING BOARDS
5 DOLLY What's that? Someone must be on the porch!
6 CHARLES Whoever it is, he deserves a load of lead!
7 SFX DRAWING GUN FROM HOLSTER FOOTSTEPS ON WOOD DOOR
8 OPEN
9 HART (WHISPERING) Come on Sleepy. We gotta leave now.
10 SLEEPY But they were talking about me.
11 HART Come on!
12 SFX RUNNING ON WOOD AND THEN DIRT
13 CHARLES There they are!
14 FRED Open fire. Let's get 'em!
15 SFX REVOLVERS FIRING
16 HART (PAIN) Uhh. I caught one.
17 SLEEPY Hashknife! You're hurt!
18 HART Got toget to the...horses...
19 SLEEPY We're here. Get up. (STRUGGLE)
20 SFX HORSES NEIGHING, SADDLE CREAKING
21 SLEEPY Ride! Get up! Hahhh! Hahhhh!
22 SFX HOOF BEATS.
23 MUSIC TO HOOFBEATS SLOWING, THEN BODY FALL
24
25 SLEEPY Lovely dove! Hashknife! Whoa! Whoa!
26 SFX HOOFS STOP, HORSES BLOW, CREAK OF SADDLE
27 SLEEPY You didn't tell me you were going to fall off!
28 HART (in PAIN) Sorry, pardner. (GROAN)
29 SLEEPY Where are you hurt?
30 HART (PAIN) Mah...mah leg.
31 SLEEPY Oh, Lord, look at all that blood. What am I goin' to do with you?

1 HART Ah've got a kind of clean shirt in mah saddlebag...

2 SLEEPY You weren't supposed to get shot!

3 SFX RUMMAGE IN SADDLE BAG

4 SLEEPY (DISTRACTED) Was it worth it?

5 HART Was what worth...

6 SLEEPY What we heard. Was it worth getting shot?

7 HART Yeah...maybe...Ah think...(PASSES OUT)

8 SLEEPY Hashknife! Hashknife! Hash...Lenny! Lovely dove. Come on, soldier. Back

9 in the saddle. I'm taking you to Sally's.

10 MUSIC

11 [SCENE 5 SALLYS]

12 SFX HEAVY FOOTSTEPS

13 SLEEPY I'm sorry, Miss Sally, but I didn't know where else to go.

14 SALLY You could have tried the jail. Here, put him there on the settee.

15 SLEEPY (EFFORT)

16 SFX PUTTING HIM DOWN

17 SLEEPY Come on—he sprung me, I couldn't take him back. Whooo-eee, you really

18 know your way around a wound.

19 SALLY I had too much practice in the war.

20 SFX RIPPING CLOTH

21 SALLY There, I think that will hold him.

22 FRED (OFF) Sally? Are you decent? I need to talk to you. I'm coming in.

23 SLEEPY (WHISPERS) No, don't let him in!

24 SALLY No, don't come in. I'm not ready.

25 FRED (OFF) Why? Are you having special company?

26 SFX DOOR BANGED OPEN, BOOTS

27 CHARLES Yeah, he's here. Son, you left a trail of blood all the way here. And lookee

28 here, it's Sleepy Stevens. By golly, two birds in one shot. A jack pot.

29 (SERIOUS) Put your hands up.

30 SALLY Frederick! I'm so glad you came. I wasn't sure what else to do.

1 CHARLES I'll tell what we're going to do—we're going to get rid of these two polecats!
2 They trespassed on Frederick's property and then had the gall to eavesdrop in
3 a private conversation.
4 SALLY Frederick, what's wrong? You look so strange, darling.
5 FRED It can't be! It can't be...
6 HART (PAIN) Why? This is exactly how you left me before, Freddy.
7 FRED You're that cowboy!
8 HART Yeah, the one you framed for Jeffers' murder. Wrong, wrong, wrong. Ah use
9 a gun, not a knife, when Ah have to.
10 SALLY Thom's murder? How can that be? You said he was...
11 FRED Darling—dearest. Please, please just be quiet. This is man talk. Cowboy, you
12 remind me of someone...
13 HART Unfortunately Ah know exactly who you are. You almost succeeded that day,
14 Tanner. You went from torturing and killing that poor Harrisson family, to
15 makin' sure all your grievances against me were settled. Ah was the only
16 person in camp that afternoon.
17 FRED (AGHAST) Harrisson family?
18 SALLY (SOFT ECHO) Harrisson family...
19 HART But you missed your chance. Little Wolf came back into camp before you
20 could finish me.
21 FRED Didn't succeed, huh? Looks like I got a second chance!
22 SALLY (SUSPICION) What Harrisson family?
23 FRED Darling, it wouldn't mean anything to you.
24 HART It was years ago, Sally. In the war.
25 FRED Yeah, and you lost it.
26 HART Lee surrendered, that was true. But most of us didn't lose ourselves. Freddie,
27 you were part of mah company, but you cut and run—run out on men who
28 trusted you.
29 SALLY (URGENT) Where was this? Where?
30 HART You don't even remember, do you, Freddie? Too many others, Ah guess.
31 Remember that little house down in that peaceful little valley.

1 FRED What are you talking about?

2 HART Sleepy, he's not helping.

3 SLEEPY Danged if I know anything about this!

4 HART By the crick in the southern part of Kansas.

5 SALLY (DAWNING) Kansas? The Harrissons in Kansas...

6 FRED It was nothing, darling. He's just spinning tales to prevent me from finishing
7 him off.

8 SALLY When were you going to tell me about that? Before...or after I got married. Or
9 ever?

10 FRED It had nothing to do with you. You didn't need to know about it.

11 SALLY How much more have you been hiding from me?

12 FRED Sally, please. Honey, we can put all these lies that Hartley is spinning behind
13 us.

14 SALLY Oh, you do know him.

15 SLEEPY What about that son? I don't think I ever mentioned who this gent is.

16 SFX RUSTLE OF SKIRT AS SHE GETS UP AND WALKS OVER.

17 SALLY Poor Frederick. No idea about women. You never asked about my family.
18 You never knew that Thom's family adopted me after my family was ...

19 SLEEPY (WHISPER) Hashknife! She's got her scissors in her fist...

20 FRED Oh, Sally. Give me one of your hugs to make things all right.

21 SALLY (DISTRAUGHT) Oh, Frederick. Please tell me this isn't happening.

22 FRED Sally, you don't need to worry. What I did in the war is in the past. Dead and
23 gone.

24 SALLY Did you know the Harrisons in south Kansas, like he says?

25 FRED I don't see why I should deny it. It happened a long time ago. The war does
26 strange things to people. But, yes, I knew them.

27 HART Particularly the sister. She thought you were gonna marry her. Right up until
28 the last second, Ah suppose.

29 FRED Yes, she was a pretty little thing. For white trash.

30 SALLY White trash?

31 HART It wasn't very pretty when you left. You had your fun.

1 FRED Pay no attention to him, Sally. He never liked me. I always got the girl. Just
2 like I got you.

3 SALLY Yes, you got me. (STAB) Here's one for my sister. (STAB) and one for my
4 mother. (STAB) and one for my family

5 FRED (CONFUSED) Sally, my love. Why are you...

6 CHARLES You're killing him, you witch!

7 SFX GUNFIRE

8 FRED No, Charlie...not Sally! My pretty Sa... (DIES)

9 HART Get 'im Sleepy!

10 SFX SCUFFLE

11 SLEEPY That does it for you, Bodiddly!

12 MUSIC -CURTAIN

13 [SCENE 6]

14 BOOTS ON BOARDWALK

15 SLEEPY (OFF) Hartley! Dog-gone it, Hashknife, hold on just a dag-napped minute!

16 BOOTS RUNNING UP

17 SLEEPY (UP, PANTING) Where in tarnation do you think you're goin'? You're not to be
18 walkin' on that leg!

19 EFX HORSE WHINNEY

20 SFX PAT PAT PAT

21 HART Ah'm goin' on mah way. Little Wolf'll handle the problems with the Res
22 better'n Ah could. Besides, Ah'm not goin' to be walkin'.

23 SLEEPY How're you gonna get up on that horse of yorn? You plan to swing your bad
24 leg over the saddle or get up there on the wrong side? Or backwards?

25 HART (GRITTING HIS TEETH) Ah'll do it, never you mind. Ah don't need a nurse-
26 maid.

27 SLEEPY You need more than that. And I'm gonna be the one who does it.

28 HART Ah just cain't stay here any longer. Ah gotta ride out of here.

29 SLEEPY Alright, alright! Just let me go get a buckboard.

30 HART A buckboard? Ah can't afford that.

1 SLEEPY I'm only borrowing it, to get you out of town. I have a dandy place where you
2 can rest up and heal.

3 HART As long as it's not in this town. Ah can't abide towns.

4 SLEEPY That's what I thought, Hashknife. There's a snug little camp down by a creek
5 a couple of miles out of town. Come on, get in.

6 HART I give up.

7 MUSIC

8 ANNCR You've been listening to a brand new episode of Hashknife Hartley and
9 Sleepy Stevens, written and produced by Joy Jackson.

10 Starring Ken Liesse as Hashknife and Dave Liesse as Sleepy.

11 Also in our cast:

12 Marge Lutton as Dolly

13 Melinda Mains as Sally

14 Pat McNally as Charles

15 Moki O'Reilly as Chief

16 Gregg Porter as John Little Wolf

17 Dan Schindler as Fred Tanner

18 Kim Turner as Deputy Dusty

19 Harry Thiel as Harry

20

21 Live Sound Effects by Penny Swanberg and Marilyn Wilt

22 Live Music by Ed Clute

23

24 I'm Liz Roach your announcer. This is A. R. T. -- The American Radio Theater.

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